

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract as indicated.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~Laser welding is used to attach a laser-transparent component portion to an absorbing component portion at a laser weld joint area. The~~ A transparent component portion includes a first weld surface and a first taper locking surface formed opposite from the first weld surface. ~~The~~ An absorbing component portion includes a second weld surface and a second taper locking surface formed opposite from the second weld surface. The first and second taper locking surfaces cooperate to force and lock the first and second weld surfaces into abutting engagement for laser welding.